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PRESS RELEASE

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Portion of Unit 5A Closed to Mountain Goat Hunting

(Juneau) – Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Douglas announce a closure to a portion of the mountain goat hunting season under the state registration permit hunt RG170 in Unit 5A. The closed area begins on the west shore of Harlequin Lake and the western edge of the Yakutat Glacier; then west of Harlequin Lake and Yakutat Glacier to Yakutat Bay and Disenchantment Bay; and south of Russell and Nunatak Fiords. Hunters are reminded that the Nunatak Bench area remains closed to mountain goat hunting.

Aerial surveys conducted during 2006-2010 in this area indicate a significant decline in goat numbers. The following are survey results by year: 2006 (122 goats), 2007 (66 goats), 2008 (57 goats), 2009 (48 goats), and in 2010 (6 & 12 goats, respectively). A survey conducted by USFS personnel in September 2011 resulted in a total of 58 goats observed (50 adults and 8 kids) between Harlequin Lake and the Hubbard Glacier. The consistently low number of goats detected suggests the areas' goat population remains depressed. Any harvest of goats in this area could have long term negative impacts on the health of this goat herd.

An Emergency Order (01-02-12) has been issued that closed the mountain goat season in this area on Tuesday, 31 July 2012 @ 11:59 pm.

All other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 5A, including the Brabazon Range east of Harlequin Lake and Yakutat Glacier, remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order. Yakutat residents are reminded that this does not affect the federal subsistence season.

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